

SECRET

IDEA-2856-65

Copy 7 of 7

30 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

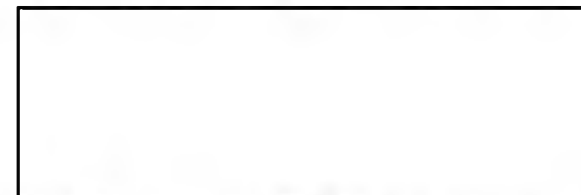
**SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Sheldon regarding TACKLE
Flights**

1. At 11:05 a.m. on 30 December, Mr. Sheldon called to say that Mr. Helms had been in touch with Mr. Bundy at the White House who had himself been having conversation with the Secretary of Defense on the subject of air activities over China during the critical period of negotiations on the Vietnam situation.

2. Mr. Sheldon said that Mr. Helms had instructed him to temporarily stand-down any TACKLE flights until we are advised to the contrary. Mr. Sheldon added that this was to include Mission C635C which will be going to a decision at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon.

3. I was further instructed to take maximum precaution to see that the true reason for this stand-down but to be certain to leave them with the impression that this was in connection with a deterioration in the weather. This will not be hard to do in view of what appears to be further deterioration in the weather situation over South China at this time. It appears quite obvious that this would not be the time to lose an aircraft for any reason whatever over the China mainland.

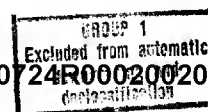
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Acting Director of Special Activities

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AD/OSA/JACunningham, Jr.:dbt

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